



Turkey River Recreational Corridor Board Meeting Minutes

November 6, 2024 | 6:30 p.m.

Elgin City Hall/Public Library - Elgin, Iowa

Present: Rod Marlatt, Steve Doepke, Troy Schott, Heather Gamm (Alt.), Greg Larson (Alt.), Chris Schoen, Kenny Slocum (alt.), Jennifer Cowser, Bruce Lehman, Chris Wachal, Kayleen Schrader

Not Present: Deb Schmidt, Dan Slagel (alt.), Jenna Pollock

Others Present: Mallory Hanson, Sheryl Struthers, Brian Balster

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Chair, Rod Marlatt.

**Motion to approve the November 2024 agenda by Schott, second by Slocum. Approved.

**Motion to approve the October 2024 minutes by Schoen, second by Slocum. Approved.

**Motion to approve the financials as presented by Larson, second by Wachal. Approved.

Annual Report Review and Approval: Hanson provided a final draft of the 2024 annual report for approval.

**Motion to approve the annual report as presented by Schrader, second by Slocum. Approved.

Partner Presentation Schedule: Hanson will reach out to schedule annual presentations and financial requests in November, December, and January.

Art Project Discussion-Native Flowers along Corridor Trails: Hanson proposed a potential Iowa Arts Council Art Project grant for 2025. Hanson will obtain cost estimates and start working on the project.

Reports:

Director: The TRRC Director presented highlights from the October 2024 report.

Clermont: Budget work has begun for 2025. The City Council is working with the County Sheriff to increase patrolling in the community. Brick City Inn was sold—Plan for high quality rental housing.

Elgin: Budget work continues for 2025. The City Council is working on funding for the 401 Mill Street project (building removal). The sewer liner project is complete.

Elkader: The new Light Up the Night event will take place in late November.

Motor Mill: A holiday event will take place November 23rd at the Motor Mill Inn. Options for mitigating pier erosion continue to be explored—A fundraising campaign will likely be launched to fund the project.

Clayton County: Multiple bridge projects are underway. The bridge projects in Volga are complete.

Supervisors: Fayette County: The County is currently working to hire an EMA coordinator. New road equipment will be purchased. The County continues to explore options for the Inspiring Lives building. Upper Explorerland Regional Planning Commission is updating the Fayette County Comprehensive Plan.

CCCB: Winter hours have begun. Two new foxes are at Osborne. Saturday, November 9th a night hike will be hosted at Motor Mill. The Osborne Campground is likely to open in May of 2025.

Conservation: FCCB: FCCB continues to support Elgin Historical Society's Tribes of the Turkey River Interpretive Center – An open house will take place November 16th (2pm-6pm). Final paving of the West Union to Echo Valley State Park Trail will be completed the week of November 4th – A pavilion will be installed in spring of 2025. The Gilbertson Holiday Walk will take place on December 6th (5:30pm-7:30pm). Bob the Byway Bus was premiered by the River Bluffs Scenic Byway board in October.

Other Business & Public Comments: Sheryl Struthers, Fayette County Citizen, shared information about discussions in Decorah regarding shared trail use.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be Tuesday, December 3, 2024 at the Elgin Public Library/City Hall.

Adjournment:

**Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:37pm by Wachal, second by Slocum. Approved.

Respectfully Submitted – Mallory Hanson